

The Times-Dispatch

Published Daily and Weekly at No. 4 North Tenth Street, Richmond, Va.
Entered January 27, 1903, at Richmond, Va., as Second-Class Matter, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

The DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH is sold at 2 cents a copy.
The SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH is sold at 5 cents a copy.

DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH by mail—50 cents a month; \$5.00 a year, \$2.50 for six months; \$1.50 for three months.

SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH by mail \$2.00 a year.

The DAILY TIMES-DISPATCH, including Sunday, in Richmond and Manchester, by Carrier, 12 cents per week, or 50 cents per month.

The SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH, by Carrier, 5 cents per week.

The WEEKLY TIMES-DISPATCH, \$1.00 year.

All Unsubscribed Communications will be rejected.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1908.

From June 1st the price of The Times-Dispatch, delivered by carrier within the corporate limits of Richmond and Manchester, is 12 cents per week, or 50 cents per calendar month.

Persons leaving the city for the summer should order The Times-Dispatch mailed to them. Price, 50 cents per month.

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

It is said that one hundred and fifty distillers, who will be driven out of North Carolina by the Watts liquor law, which goes into effect on July 1st, will move across the line, and thereafter do business in Virginia.

In the same connection it may be mentioned that a large bottling establishment which had been successfully conducted for years in the city of Danville has removed to Richmond since the prohibition law became operative in the former city.

In the same connection it may also be mentioned that a letter was recently received in this city from a prominent prohibitionist of Danville, saying that the prohibition law there was most successful, and that no liquor could be purchased for any purpose whatsoever. He added that there was no ground for the complaint that liquor could not be had for medicinal purposes, seeing that Danville was within easy reach of Lynchburg and Reidsville and South Boston, where prohibition is not in force, and moreover, that most citizens kept a little spirits in the house for emergencies, and were quite willing to give it to less fortunate citizens who needed it for medicinal purposes.

Taking all these facts into consideration, it would appear that the Watts law in North Carolina is to be enforced at the expense of Virginia, and that Danville is enjoying all the blessings of prohibition at the expense of neighboring towns. North Carolina is going to run her distillers into Virginia, and if Virginia should enact a Watts law she would in turn turn them into some other State. Danville has put a stop to the sale of liquor within her borders, but her citizens admit that it is necessary to have a little spirits in the house, and so they contribute to the liquor traffic elsewhere.

We observe that our esteemed contemporary, the Danville Register, is even now running two large display advertisements of whiskey establishments in Lynchburg. One of these concerns calls special attention to its fine brand of "medicinal" whiskey, and the other says that it is daily getting duplicate orders, showing that its brands are very popular.

Now, what is to be the upshot of this system if it is continued? If North Carolina runs her distillers into Virginia, and Virginia runs them into Maryland, and Maryland into Pennsylvania, and so on; if Danville goes dry and depends on South Boston and Reidsville and Lynchburg for its supply of medicinal liquors; and Lynchburg and Reidsville and South Boston go dry and depend on Richmond; and Richmond then goes dry and depends on Baltimore; if all the States and all the cities in the State go dry, where shall our supply of medicinal whiskey come from?

Once upon a time a man who had been traveling on a very fast train said that the train ran so fast he had to get the conductor to hold his hair on.

"But who held the conductor's hair on?" he was asked.

He replied that the brakeman held the conductor's hair on.

"But who held the brakeman's hair on?" insisted his interrogator.

"The brakeman was baldheaded," the fast traveler replied in great glee.

And so it would seem that if this pushing out business goes on in pursuing the whiskey devil, those in need of medicinal whiskey must buy and by depend upon a baldheaded place for their supply. What a universal prohibition means.

PREVENTION OF OVERFLOWS.

The recent disastrous floods in the South and West, have stimulated inquiry as to what ought to be done to prevent their recurrence. The old suggestion about restoring the forests is revived, and Senator J. R. Burton, of Kansas, thinks the construction of intaking canals and headwater reservoirs would not only prevent damage by floods, but would furnish water for irrigation purposes in that section of the country. The first thing needed on this subject is enlightenment—to wit, accurate information. For instance, it is known positively that in Virginia the floods are more disastrous than they were forty or fifty years ago?

It is certain that more or less acreage is covered now by the foliage of trees than was similarly covered a generation ago?

We "know," of course, that remnants

of our "forests" are disappearing in all sections of the State, but is it not a fact that the acreage of small growth and saplings is still very large?

The popular impression is that our woods now cover vastly less ground than they did half a century ago. If by "woods" we refer specifically to growing "timber," that is true; but consider how much of our land now is protected by the new growth that is covering the land abandoned by the agriculturist.

This is a day of great floods, to be sure, yet we have had none equal to that occurring in Virginia a generation ago, nor was that comparable with at least one of those of the pre-revolutionary period.

So while it is all right to inquire what can be done to reduce damages by flood, we submit that it would be well to secure exact information as to the extent of the denudation of our woods—"forests," so called. To this end investigation should be made to discover the extent that new growth—much of it sapling—has replaced the former growth, and to what degree the new growth serves to break the force of great, washing rains.

In any event let it be understood that it is a wise and good thing to preserve our forests as far as possible, and to plant new trees.

TOM RITCHIE.

What are known as "the Branch Papers" are short biographical sketches of men who have had great influence in shaping Virginia's history, and are almost exclusively the writings of Randolph-Macon College students.

The publication is in the form of an annual, and Mr. John P. Branch bears the expense thereof, while Professor William E. Dodd is the learned and loving editor. The field thus opened up is one of importance, and cultivated as it is going to be, cannot fail to interest our people in the lives of Virginia's great sons. About some of these men little is known, except in a scattering way; not a few who were worthy to live in books and magazines have dropped out of print almost entirely.

These Papers will rescue many of these worthy names, and while encouraging the development of young writers, will do justice to the dead, and furnish instruction and entertainment for the living.

In the number just issued there are papers on Thomas Ritchie, by C. T. Thrift, A. B.; Abel Parker Uphur, by R. E. McCabe, and John Lewis (founder of Augusta county), by G. H. Fielding; also a life sketch of Captain Richard

Irby, by Bishop J. C. Granberry. That on Father Ritchie has a particular interest for us. The subject was of this town and of our profession. Many years of his life were spent here. If we remember, his house, a roomy structure of frame, stood on the northeast corner of Franklin and Third Streets. He was born in Tappanhook, November 5, 1778, and died here July 3, 1854, and his body lies in Hollywood. For over forty years he was editor of the Enquirer, and his work may be found in nearly all departments of that paper. He had studied law, then medicine, and then became a school teacher. And then he ran a bookstore. With that preparation, with that wide range of instruction and observation, he entered journalism by becoming editor of the paper Judge Spencer Roane established in Richmond, the Enquirer.

Our author defends Mr. Ritchie from the charge of excessive intemperance. Many of the quarrels were forced upon Mr. Ritchie, he says. "While he dealt fierce blows upon his enemies, he always fought fairly, for he was the soul of honor, and naturally felt contempt for the coward."

Notwithstanding the bitterness, which at times marked his conduct of political battles, let it not be supposed that Mr. Ritchie had no tender traits.

So, too, we are told that Mr. Ritchie's description of the burning of the Richmond Theatre was a remarkable production. He poured forth his sympathy for the grief-stricken people in a style so plaintive, so pathetic, that it beggars description.

We are also informed that Father Ritchie was a clear and earnest, at times eloquent speaker. He was "dubbed by the Whigs" a "Sweat House Orator." In those days the Democratic band in Richmond was small, and it was not necessary to hire a big hall in which to hold their meetings; a vacant room in a tobacco factory was often made to serve their purpose—hence the term "sweat house" orator, applied derisively to one who in the habit of speaking at those assemblies of "unfurnished Democrats."

Mr. Ritchie is described by Dr. Thrift as tall and lean. He is said to have had a brilliant eye, prominent chin and nose. He clung with great fondness to the old style of dress, including low shoes and stockings. His last days were spent in the quiet of his family, "reviving his studies, reading the Scriptures, culling the gems of poetry and song and contemplating the beauties of rural scenery."

In the seventy-sixth year of his age he died without any of the peremptory symptoms of decay. "The ablest editor the South has yet produced."

A WORD ABOUT HONESTY.

One of our Virginia contemporaries tells an interesting story concerning a man who had succeeded frequently in beating the railroad companies.

"He said that whenever he wanted to go to a certain point he would purchase a ticket for the first station outside of the town from which he was traveling. Between the town and the station the conductor would, of course, collect his ticket, but as he was not going to any important place at a distance the conductor would not give him a slip. As soon as the conductor got away the stranger would take one of the slips which he had in his pocket and stick it in his hat, and when the conductor passed through the car again he would naturally think that the man had given up a ticket to the place for which the slip was intended. The stranger would take careful note of the necessary color, and he was always on the safe side in this particular. The stranger said that he was a regular traveling man and that he saved a great deal of money in the course of a year by adopting such a method. He did not seem to think that he was doing anything wrong, and it may be supposed that he took the view that by least a railroad or the government is not a crime."

We suppose this man felt that he was doing no wrong, else he would hardly have told the story on himself. We sus-

pose that he is ordinarily an honest man, and that he would not think of beating a merchant out of a bill of goods or defrauding his neighbor in any way. But, like many others, he seems to think that there is no harm whatever in beating a railroad company—in cheating the company out of its legitimate fare.

We doubt not that there are many such people in Richmond. They ride on the street cars from day to day, and if they can dodge the conductor they seem to feel no compunction whatever in riding free. They seem to think that it is the conductor's business to collect fare, and that if he does not demand his fare it is not the duty of the passengers to pay.

But all that is mere quibbling. It is as much a man's duty to pay his fare on a railroad train or on a street railway car as it is to pay for a bill of goods which he has purchased. As well say that it is honest for a man to walk out of a store with a bundle of goods which he has not paid for because the clerk forgot to ask for the money. No matter how one looks at it, it is a species of dishonesty, and dishonesty cannot be defended upon any plea whatsoever.

When a man boards a public vehicle he puts himself under an obligation to pay his fare, and when the conductor overlooks him it is his plain duty to seek the conductor and settle.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Charlottesville Progress reproduces a paragraph from these columns on the subject of final examinations, and says that it heartily agrees with The Times-Dispatch that examinations should be held from time to time during the session, and not crowded into one spasmodic effort at the final. It thinks that examinations should be both oral and written, and that written tests should be frequent and without notice.

"In this way," it goes on, "only can be avoided the pernicious system of 'cranking' for examinations, with its heavy tax upon the whole system. In this way only, too, can systematic and regular study be promoted. The student who prepares his lessons from day to day will always be ready for a test, either written or oral, and will accomplish much more in a term than the one who works spasmodically, loading part of the time, expecting to make up for examinations. No system of testing the knowledge of a subject is absolutely perfect, but one which combines class standing with oral and written tests, given without notice, will surely, in our opinion, be found more nearly so than any other. Intermediate and final examinations waste time, nerve force and physical strength, and even then are very uncertain tests."

Nature's processes are gradual. When she builds strong, she builds slowly. The knowledge that sticks is that which is acquired by system and deliberation; that which is thoroughly digested by the mind. When the mind is stuffed and engaged by the cramming process, it not only does not digest and retain the matter taken in, but is enfeebled by being overtaxed, as surely so as that the digestive organs of the body are impaired by gorging the stomach with food.

What is it that we all remember best? Is it not the piece of poetry that we "committed to memory" in childhood? or the rules of grammar and arithmetic?—those things that we learned by hard, persistent study, with groanings that could not be uttered? They are easily recalled to this day, while much knowledge acquired in mature years by the quick and stuffing process is as water run through a sieve.

A diploma is a good thing to have, but it is not, or rather it should not be, the chief aim of the student. The diploma is simply the certificate of one's attainments at school, and if it does not represent knowledge it is fraudulent. The aim of the student should be to train his mind and to acquire knowledge in such a way as that it will abide. His work at school should be day by day throughout the session, and he should learn so thoroughly as to be able to stand up at any time and tell what he has learned. It is the poorest sort of policy for a student to loaf during the session and then "cram up" during the few weeks at the close of the session for the "final examination."

But do not our colleges rather encourage the student to pursue such a policy?

AFTER THE STORM.

Now that the storm in Wall Street has cleared up, men who seemed to think a little while ago that the whole country was about to go to smash are seeing with a clearer vision. There are some unfavorable conditions, but when the people of a great country like ours are at work the country can go along for some time by its own momentum, and it is impossible to bring prosperity to a sudden end. In point of fact, the Wall Street storm has been of benefit in some respects to the general business of the country, for it has, without disaster, brought stocks down to a fair level of value, and put a stop to wild syndicate operations. It has also had the effect to make speculators very much more conservative, and the lesson has not been in vain.

As for the country at large, it is still very prosperous, although there is less activity in the iron trade, and although labor troubles are still numerous.

The South is now one of the most prosperous sections of the whole country. Mr. J. W. Castles, president of the Hibernian Bank and Trust Company, of New Orleans, one of the largest financial institutions of the South, was in New York the other day and told a representative of the Sun that the South generally was thriving, and that conditions in his section of the South were quite satisfactory. For one thing, he called attention to the fact that one hundred and nineteen oil mills and one refinery were built in the Southern States during the past year, and he spoke particularly of the banking business in the South, which is in a most flourishing condition. He declared that there was plenty of money in the South, and that this section does not now borrow money, except to move crops in the fall. "In our bank," said he, "we have now about ten million dollars of deposits; yet I can remember when the deposits in all the banks of New Orleans did not amount to that sum, and that was not many years ago either."

The high price of cotton has been worth a great deal to the South, and will be worth a great deal more. Some time ago we suggested to cotton planters that they had a fine opportunity to sell their crop in advance at high prices. We learn that many cotton buyers have been going through the cotton fields buying up the

growing crop for future delivery and at prices which must yield a handsome profit to the planters.

This is a time for conservatism, but the people are conservative, and with our large export trade to take away the surplus products, there seems to us no reason to expect in the early future another period of hard times.

Life in the country, after all, is life at its best. Where could it be better than in old Virginia, and in Virginia where cleaner and happier than in the Valley of the Shenandoah?—Rockingham Register.

Nowhere on earth, except up here in our unsurpassed Roanoke Valley—Salem Times-Register.

Mistaken, brother. Southside Virginia is "God's Country," where health conditions are better, water purer, waffles browner, biscuit hotter, neighbors more neighborly, girls prettier, milk and butter better, flowers fairer, skies bluer, sun brighter and heaven nearer.—Farmville Herald.

Isn't that like Virginians? Virginia is better than any other State, and each section of Virginia is better than any other section of Virginia, according as a man lives in Tidewater, in the Piedmont, in the Southside, in the Valley or in the West.

Well, that sort of loyalty is beautiful, and it is one of Virginia's most valuable assets.

It has been discovered that artesian wells at Cairo, Egypt, will be very successful, and arrangements are now being made to supply the city with drinking water from that source. Cairo is luckier in that respect than Richmond can hope to be, but our settling basin is one of the certainties of the future. And that it will give us an ample supply of clear, wholesome drinking water is hardly to be doubted.

The Virginia Press Association will meet at Ocean View on July 14th. The Lord willing, and there being no providential hindrance, we hope to be with the brethren this year.—Wise News.

And we believe that providence will throw no obstacles in the way. The Virginia Press Association is a very pious organization, and the proceedings of the convention are always opened with prayer.

The anthracite mine owners are said to have piled up ten million tons of coal, and are still piling it up, so as to be in condition to hold out against a strike, should there be one coming fall. They hope by September to have a ten-months' supply of anthracite in reserve, and then they would doubtless welcome a strike as an excuse to unload on the country at exorbitant rates.

The Democrats of Porto Rico are said to intend to demand representation by six delegates in the next national convention of the party, and are organizing with that end in view. Let them come ahead, and we hope they will be admitted to the convention. We would like very much to see what sort of a looking thing a Porto Rican Democrat is.

And now come the scientific prophets with the awful announcement that the much water of the spring will make the mosquitoes of the summer ten million times more numerous than under normal conditions.

Some showers have come to drought afflicted New England, but we judge from what the Boston Globe says that a regular North Carolina gully washer and trash lifter is what New England wants.

The strike of the restaurant waiters did not disturb Chicago very much, but just a rumor of a contemplated strike of the bar-tenders caused consternation in the town.

There are thought sufferers in New England, flood sufferers in the West and storm sufferers in the South. There are no fortunes in the country to take care of the unfortunates.

The Servian cloudburst has flooded the cable and the American linotype machines with some of the all-freest names that ever threatened dislocation to the jawbones of newspaper readers.

The Hon. Marion Butler still insists that there are enough men in the country who have not shaved since 1900 to put out a Populist ticket next year.

And so the good old town of Alexandria furnished the charter under which Machen and Company worked the Postoffice Department.

King Alfonso will review the Spanish fleet at Carthagena at the end of July. It is supposed he will not fail to take along a gold glass in order to find it.

Colonel Stemp's ambition to make the Republican party respectable and strong in Virginia is commendable, but the Colonel has undertaken a tremendous job.

Mr. Bryan repeats that he does not care to be the leader, but he has not expressed a willingness to be a follower.

Not the least among the horrors reported at Belgrade is the reinstatement of the skupstina.

Kentucky seems to be putting the rabbit foot on the Breathitt county bandits after all.

West Point is bravely keeping up its cry for fire protection. The way to protect is to protect.

Neither floods, droughts or cyclones interfere with the June weddings.

Machen needed the money. That was a good enough excuse with him.

Personal and General.

Governor Hunt of Porto Rico, is on his way to this country to arrange the land question with President Roosevelt.

Henry Graham Thompson, one of the founders of the Union League Club of New York, has just died at his home in Milford, Conn.

Major Alexander H. Davis, of New York and London, has presented Louisville, Ky., with stock amounting to \$100,000, to be used in providing a public park in that city.

Colonel Charles Page Bryan has rented the first floor of the magnificent Palazzo Farnese in Lisbon, Portugal, which gives the United States the finest legation building in that city.

Brigadier-General William H. Carter, of the War College Board, will not go to the Philippines this summer, but will remain on duty in Washington as a member of the general staff until that body is in working order.

Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

The Norfolk Ledger makes this remark:

Colonel Stemp is charged with having a plan for using the rural free delivery routes in his district, which to sterner than his congressional hold in that section—as to which we would suggest that these are troublesome times in which to be monkeying with United States postal department affairs, and especially so as to the rural free delivery division of it.

The Roanoke World wants Roanoke to have the earth also. It says:

We are making a good start for next year, with the Commercial Travelers and the Grand Encampment of Odd-Fellows ready booked. We must also make an effort to secure the State conventions of both political parties.

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot is eager for a fray of some kind:

By all means let Mr. Stemp bring his fight along. We propose to ourselves to enjoy the scrap to the limit. The Republican party has been so long quiescent, to say the least, in Virginia, that Democrats generally will rather welcome signs of life in it. There is nothing like a good stiff knock down and drag out fight to keep one up to his party knitting, and if the Republicans desire to put up that quality of scrap let them fetch it along.

The Newport News Press makes this point:

The Rev. Dwight Hillis and other conspicuous gentlemen have been accused at one time or another of making a fool of themselves over Booker Washington and his mission, but it is worthy of remark that nobody has ever accused Booker of making a fool of himself.

Here's a tip from the Harrisonburg News:

Senator Mann is mentioned as a possible candidate for Governor in 1905. His campaign will be long and dry.

With a Comment or Two.

Richmond has a prophet who predicted the recent flood. We have always observed, although the second-sight artists dressed to him by women all over the country, proposing marriage, he taxes the credulity of inquisitive people away beyond the line.—Boston Globe.

This "prophet" made his prediction sometime in advance, and it failed to come true. The little flood that came was not the great overflow that was "foretold."

When Governor Bailey, of Kansas, says that he never read the 1500 letters addressed to him by women all over the country, proposing marriage, he taxes the credulity of inquisitive people away beyond the line.—Boston Globe.

He is married now and dare not say otherwise. But who knows that Mrs. Bailey didn't write one of those letters.

The Hon. John Goode, one of the most prominent speakers and distinguished men in Virginia and the South, delivered an address at Hampden-Sidney on last Tuesday. Invitations had been sent to the majority of the citizens of Farmville, and the address had been well advertised. In the face of these facts, however, there were only five citizens from Farmville to hear the noble Roman and to encourage the efforts of the college by their presence.—Farmville Examiner.

And yet they would tear their shirts and cut up shiny if the Presbyterian brethren should talk about moving the college to Richmond or some other neighborhood where good colleges are appreciated.

A Few Foreign Facts.

Mr. Georges Bertrand, the French artist, whose home is in Versailles, has just completed the largest picture ever painted. The subject is the "Obsequies of President Carnot."

A diamond weighing sixty-seven carats and worth about \$15,000 was found on the Premier Johannesburg property the other day.

London is appreciating the extension of the cheap restaurant tea shops, as the people call them. They follow the quick lunch idea recently introduced and the extent of public patronage is astonishing to Londoners. Breakfasts are now served at popular prices, and the serving of rolls and coffee in lodgings has been termed, is doomed to remembrance as a nightmare.

The annual report of the Nitrate Association of Chile, which controls the world's supply of nitrates of soda, shows the production in 1902 to have been 2,932,522,500 pounds from 78 works. The nitrate beds are near the surface and are worked as stone quarries. It is anticipated that the immense amount of nitrate the United States now gets from Chile for use in fertilizers will ultimately be supplied by factories making it by electrolytic process from the air, as is being done at Niagara Falls.

DAILY FASHION HINTS.

GIRL'S FROCK.

Farmville Herald: If Richmond does go "dry" something must be done to clear that James River beverage.

Fredericksburg Star: The Times-Dispatch announces that summer does not begin officially until the 23d. Despite this fact it seems to have grown quite warm in Richmond.

Newport News Press: The irrelevant paragraphs who are seeking fun at the expense of the Richmond flood forecaster, should remember the fate of the bad boys who indulged in levity over the bald head of another prophet.

GLASGOW MAY ENTER POLITICAL LIFE

A gentleman from Roanoke, who is now in the city, says that according to his views of the case Mr. William A. Glasgow, Jr., retired from the attorney's office in Roanoke and Western Railroad, with the view to entering political life.

He says that there has been no direct declaration from Mr. Glasgow on the subject, but that it is the general opinion up in Roanoke that the brilliant lawyer has political aspirations, and that he may some future time enter the race for Congress in the Sixth District.

Mr. Irvine Out.

It is understood that Hon. R. Tate Irvine of Big Stone Gap, will be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress next year. Mr. Irvine has recently been elected to the House of Delegates and was Democratic elector for his district in 1900.

Governor Back.

Governor Montague returned from Salem yesterday, where on Thursday night he made an address at the closing of the Knoxville College.

His Excellency spent the day in his office, disposing of routine business.

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THE MAN ABOUT TOWN

—BY—
Harry Tucker

DAILY CALENDAR.
1903-Pat. Sweeney applied for a license for his goat Tommy.
1908—Hasn't got it yet.

Mr. Alexander Downy and Mr. Peter Erkel are kindred spirits.

They both belong to the Heps, and are kind of H.

Mr. Downy belongs to No. 239, of Pittsburgh, and Mr. Erkel belongs to No. 68, of McKeesport, just across the street from Pittsburgh.

As a result they let their children play in each other's back yard, and all goes well.

But when it comes to a show down in telling stories it's a stand off between the two.

Mr. Erkel was born on the banks of the Rhine, and Mr. Downy came from the county, Kilkenny, and that's where the trouble began.

One of the gentlemen speaks German and the other Irish, and when they get together in an argument it takes a fellow like Judge J. C. Miller, of McKeesport, to settle it.

The Judge belongs to No. 550, and he is a judge by virtue of the part that he helped to decide who were the winners at the county fair in the Casino.

He settles all the difficulties, and when a dispute arose between Messrs. Erkel and Downy, as to the merits of the four-leaf clover and the red rose, the Judge declared that the daisy was the best of all.

Everybody went to Campbell's sideboard and took a dose of rosa sofa.

The whole bunch turned out to be good for us, and with a Walter H. Flag, the little man from William, Pa., and J. A. Toms, of McKeesport, a Pennsylvania delegate of some proportions, looked up.

Had we remained with them longer the chances are we would have had to take a dose of bromo-seltzer, for we are over even, and we know when